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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 12th meeting, on 23 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 15)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposed strategic framework of the programme.

4. Appreciation was expressed for the work carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the Asia and the Pacific region. In this connection, and in more general terms, it was observed that the regional commissions were important instruments entrusted with tasks related to development in their respective regions. Further, it was pointed out that the need for regional commissions remained high and that they had demonstrated the ability to adapt to ever-changing atmospheres and circumstances while carrying out the important task of implementing the Millennium Development Goals over a vast

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geographical area. It was also observed that the role of ESCAP had become crucial in promoting economic and social development in the region by fostering cooperation among its members and producing catalytic synergies in the quest for a better future.

5. It was observed that despite the economic prosperity and dynamism of parts of the region, those achievements concealed the destitution of the 680 million people, who represented two thirds of the world's poor. It was noted that the region was frequently affected by natural disasters, which threatened efforts towards economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. It was pointed out that, for all those reasons, priority attention should continue to be accorded to the work of ESCAP.

6. The view was expressed that ESCAP's three thematic priorities were important to the region and appreciation and support were expressed for maintaining the same focus for the period 2008-2009.

7. Progress in the areas of development and trade in the Asia and the Pacific region was acknowledged with satisfaction. Further, ESCAP's new emphasis in responding to the impact of natural disasters, communicable diseases and other issues affecting people and infrastructure in the region was welcomed. It was emphasized that ESCAP had made great efforts in responding to the emerging needs of the people of the regions affected by the impact of these events.

8. It was pointed out that Asia and the Pacific suffered from poverty, lack of investments, natural disasters, drug trafficking etc., and that ESCAP's subprogrammes needed to address those issues and to adapt them to the current situation in the region.

9. The importance of ensuring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals under subprogramme 1, Poverty and development was emphasized, and further references to capacity-building for the formulation and implementation of policies as part of the indicators of achievement would be desirable. It was further suggested that the strategy of this subprogramme could include a reference to the decision reached at the sixty-second session of the Commission to formulate a road map for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asia and the Pacific region at its sixty-third session, in 2007. The road map would establish concrete steps for cooperation in the region geared towards achieving the Goals. It was also emphasized that this subprogramme should take women into consideration, as part of a strategy to undertake activities related to development and poverty eradication. It was noted that access to services was regarded as a crucial element to the attainment of the objective of this subprogramme.

10. It was also observed, with regard to subprogramme 3, Development of Pacific island countries and territories, that one particular feature of the sixty-second session of the Commission, held in Jakarta in April 2006, was the first ever meeting of the Pacific Leaders ESCAP special session. It was further observed that this important occasion would indeed strengthen the Asia-Pacific partnership in such areas as tourism, information and communication technology, trade statistics and the environment. The view was expressed that ESCAP should include a reference to the follow-up activities of the special session in the strategic framework.

11. It was further expressed, with regard to subprogramme 5, Transport and tourism, that the strategic framework could incorporate the latest development on intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, which was open for signature by ESCAP members and would be adopted in November 2006 during the ministerial conference on transport and subsequently at the United Nations.

12. ESCAP efforts to improve national capacities for the delivery of equitable social services and integration of social dimensions into the development process was appreciated and it was pointed out that subprogramme 8, Social development, including persistent and emerging issues, should accord more attention to disability issues in the region. The need to strengthen ESCAP work and cooperation with other agencies and local governments as part of this subprogramme was observed.

13. The view was expressed that proposals for the implementation of the recommendations of the recently completed external evaluation of ESCAP would be welcomed, and that ESCAP could further emphasize the attention to cross-cutting issues in the overall orientation of the strategic framework. The need for close cooperation with other agencies and entities was again underscored.

14. Support was also expressed for the proposed revisions to the proposed biennial programme plan of programme 15, based on the review of the plan at the special session of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on 23 June 2006, including references to the rights-based approach.

15. The representative of the Secretary-General, in response to questions raised, indicated that attention would be given to qualitative and quantitative performance measures during the formulation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 15.11

Replace the paragraph in its entirety with paragraph 15.9 of document A/59/6/Rev.1, to read:

> **"15.11 As a matter of priority, the gender dimension and the rights-based as well as development-based approaches for persons with disabilities will be mainstreamed across relevant subprogrammes. Particular attention will be given to achieving in a progressive manner, in diverse development sectors, the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, people with disabilities, older persons and people living with HIV/AIDS, especially among the poor."**

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

Strategy

Paragraph 15.15

In the third sentence remove the parentheses around the words "including the right to access services".

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a), after the words "statistical system", insert the words "benefiting from ESCAP and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific assistance".

Subprogramme 3
Development of Pacific island countries and territories

Strategy

Paragraph 15.18

At end of the first sentence, add the words: "with cooperation from other ESCAP divisions."

Subprogramme 4
Trade and Investment

Indicators of achievement

Delete the word "(stakeholders)" from indicators of achievement (a) (ii), (b) (i), (c), and (d).

In indicators of achievement (a) (ii), (b) (i), (c) and (d), after the word "officials", add the words "and others".

Strategy

Paragraph 15.20

After paragraph 15.20, add the following paragraphs and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"15.21 ESCAP will collaborate at the regional, subregional and national levels and with the agencies within the United Nations system, as well as with other bilateral and multilateral agencies.

"15.22 Additionally, further collaboration will be undertaken with relevant regional, subregional and national intergovernmental bodies, as well as with private sector and civil society organizations and networks within Asia and the Pacific."

Paragraph 15.21

In the last sentence, after the words "priority to", insert the words "developing countries, including".

Subprogramme 5
Transport and Tourism

Paragraph 15.23

At the end of the paragraph, add the following sentence: "The subprogramme will accord priority to developing countries including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States."

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

Replace in its entirety with the following:

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: to improve the environmental sustainability of economic and social development, and natural resources management, in line with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved national capacity to develop and implement policies and programmes that contribute to green growth	(a) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills in applying a green growth approach
(b) Increased national capacity to develop and apply socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance	(b) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills in applying socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance
(c) Enhanced national capacity to identify effective policies and programmes for efficient and cleaner production, management and use of energy resources on the national, subregional and regional levels	(c) Increased number of measures taken by policymakers and planners in promoting energy security, improving energy efficiency and supporting subregional and regional cooperation in energy sector development
(d) Increased national capacity in formulating and implementing effective sustainable development policies and strategies on management of water resources and natural disasters in particular in disaster-prone countries, in terms of preparedness, response and recovery.	(d) Increased number of measures taken that reflects ESCAP-promoted initiatives on management of water resources and natural disasters in particular increased number of measures in disaster-prone countries to prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact.

Strategy

15.24 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme lies with the Environment and Sustainable Development Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives mainly from the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcomes of the other related major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Shanghai Declaration, the outcome of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, and other relevant mandates.

15.24 (bis) The subprogramme will focus on using innovative and pragmatic approaches in promoting equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth. In the area of energy, the subprogramme will promote energy security, improve energy efficiency, enhance utilization of new and renewable sources of energy and assist in further development of regional and subregional energy cooperation. In the area of water resources, the subprogramme will continue to concentrate on capacity-building in strategic planning to promote integrated water resources management, improved access to safe drinking water and water conservation. In the area of the environment, the subprogramme will focus on improving the environmental performance of major stakeholders and promoting effective regional and subregional collaboration in environmental protection. Regional cooperation will be strengthened for natural disaster management. The strategic focus will be on assisting members and associate members to develop and apply gender responsive policies and programmes, where appropriate, in particular towards attaining Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7. It will comprise closely interrelated sectoral projects and interdisciplinary activities implemented jointly with other divisions within the thematic areas of managing globalization, reducing poverty and addressing emerging social issues. The subprogramme will promote wider participation of all stakeholders, including the civil society, in regional and national decision-making processes relating to sustainable development. The subprogramme will accord priority to developing countries including the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States. It will also seek to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and international organizations in the development of tools and networks to support the foregoing projects and interdisciplinary activities.

Subprogramme 7
Information, communication and space technology

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicators (c) (i) and (c) (ii) with the following indicator:

"(c) (i) Percentage of policymakers and officials benefiting from activities of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development who indicate that their level of competency has increased in the use of information and communication technology for socio-economic development"

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (d), after the words "transfer mechanisms", insert the words "supported by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology".

Paragraph 15.26

In the final sentence, after the words "the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization", insert the words "Asian-Pacific Telecommunity".

At the end of the paragraph, add the following sentence: "The subprogramme will accord priority to developing countries, including the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States."

Subprogramme 8
Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Strategy

Paragraph 15.28

Replace the words "emphasizing a rights-based approach" with the words: "emphasizing the rights-based as well as development-based approaches for persons with disabilities".

Legislative mandates

Add subprogramme 4 to the subprogrammes in parentheses under resolutions 55/279 and 60/228, in the first grouping of General Assembly resolutions.

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

1. At its 10th meeting, on 22 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009 (A/61/6 (Prog. 1)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. General support was expressed for the proposed programme, and the importance of the services provided to Member States by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in New York and the other conference-servicing duty stations, namely Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, was recognized. The reform measures undertaken by the Department to improve its performance and the incorporation into the programme of the views put forward in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1) were noted and commended. Concerns were expressed about how the Department would ensure equal treatment of all the six official languages of the United Nations, as called for

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in General Assembly resolution 60/236 B. The view was expressed that conference services in Nairobi were still in need of improvement, and questions were raised as to whether sufficient progress had been made on long-standing issues of recruitment of interpreters and strengthening of the information technology unit in the conference services area.

4. It was emphasized that it was important for the Department to improve its coordination and communication in the area of conference services and to avoid overlap and duplication between Headquarters and the conference-servicing duty stations of Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. The subject of outsourcing of conference services, such as the use of freelancers and contractual services, was raised and the question of whether different approaches were taken at other conference-servicing duty stations arose. Concern was expressed about the impact outsourcing would have on the staff of the Department.

5. Views were expressed in support of the proposed strategic framework. However, while general support was expressed for the overall orientation of the programme, concern was raised that the logical framework of the programme plan was excessively standardized and, for that reason, did not provide sufficiently for the specific conference-servicing needs programmed for each duty station. Concern was also expressed that the quality of documentation and conference services had not been sufficiently emphasized in the logical framework, nor had the requirement to improve the timely issuance of parliamentary documentation. Regarding indicators of achievement of the programme, support was expressed for the use of client surveys. However, the view was also expressed that the programme lacked a clear strategy to provide an alternative effective mechanism for Member States to evaluate the performance of the Department, as called for in section II, part B, paragraph 4, of General Assembly resolution 60/236 B. The view was expressed that the content of the current survey questionnaire needed to be improved and expanded, and that surveys should be conducted on a regular basis. The question of how to increase the provision of conference services to regional and other major groupings of Member States was also raised.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 1.3

In the second sentence, replace the words "the timely issuance of documentation" with the words "to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible".

Paragraph 1.4

Replace the last sentence with the following: "Effective measures to be taken by the Department to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, will provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and will be in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with the following: "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies referring to the conduct of meetings as well as the level and quality of technical secretariat services".

Paragraph 1.5

In subparagraph (a), delete the words "strengthening and revitalizing".

Subprogramme 2
Planning, development and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "Overall improvement in the" with the word "Improved".

Replace expected accomplishment (e) with the following: "(e) Increased provision of conference services that are requested by regional and other major groupings of Member States".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with the following: "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies as to the quality of conference services".

Delete indicator (d) (iii).

At the beginning of indicators (e) (i) and (ii), insert the word "Increased".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.6

In subparagraph (g), after the words "conference services", delete the remainder of the text and insert the words: ", in accordance with legislative mandates, in order to plan, process, monitor and manage documentation and meeting services more effectively, while keeping the

General Assembly aware of new technologies that can be used in the Organization to achieve timeliness and better quality of services provided".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following: "(b) Quality and cost-effectiveness of editing and translation services".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with the following: "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of translation and editorial services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.7

In the second sentence, after the words "achieving greater", insert the words "quality and".

In subparagraph (d), after the words "capable of supporting", delete the word "full".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the beginning of expected accomplishment (b), insert the words "Quality and".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with the following: "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of interpretation, verbatim reporting and publishing services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.8

At the end of subparagraph (b), add the words "to achieve better quality and timeliness".

B. C. and D. Conference management, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Planning, development and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "Overall improvement in the" with the word "Improved".

Replace expected accomplishment (e) with the following: "(e) Increased provision of conference services that are requested by regional and other major groupings of Member States".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with the following: "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies as to the quality of conference services".

Delete indicator (d) (iii).

At the beginning of indicators (e) (i) and (ii), insert the word "Increased".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.9

In subparagraph (f), after the words "conference services", delete the remainder of the text and insert the words ", in accordance with legislative mandates, in order to plan, process, monitor and manage documentation and meeting services more effectively, while keeping the General Assembly aware of new technologies that can be used in the Organization to achieve timeliness and better quality of services provided".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following: "(b) Quality and cost-effectiveness of editing and translation services".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with the following: "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of translation and editorial services".

Strategy

Paragraphs 1.10, 1.13 and 1.16

In the second sentence, after the words "achieving greater", insert the words "quality and".

In subparagraph (d) after the words "capable of supporting", delete the word "full".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the beginning of expected accomplishment (b), insert the words "Quality and".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with the following: "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of interpretation, verbatim reporting and publishing services".

Strategy

Paragraphs 1.11, 1.14 and 1.17

At the end of subparagraph (b), insert the words "to achieve better quality and timeliness".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 13
International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 18th meeting, on 29 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 13)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. General support and appreciation were expressed for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) carried out through its various subprogrammes. Support was expressed for the proposed biennial programme plan under programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice.

4. Support and appreciation were expressed for the work carried out under the three pillars of the work programme of the Office as set out in paragraph 13.6 of the proposed biennial programme plan. It was observed that it was necessary to

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strengthen the research and analysis functions of the Office so as to buttress its position as an honest broker during discussions on policy matters.

5. It was emphasized that there was a need to strengthen the legal and practical frameworks against crime, drugs and terrorism. Moreover, the view was expressed that it was vital for Member States to be given adequate technical assistance to ensure the implementation of international instruments, including effective follow-up and monitoring. The need for the provision of technical assistance with regard to terrorism, which the programme is offering, was stressed.

6. Appreciation was expressed for ongoing regional cooperation efforts, with special reference to Central Asia, where UNODC was facilitating contact between Governments and experts. In this regard, support was expressed for the activities carried out by the regional coordination centre, and the practical results of the Second Ministerial conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan held in Moscow in June 2006, were welcomed.

7. With regard to subprogrammes 2, Services for policymaking and treaty adherence, and 3, Technical assistance and advice, the need for closer coordination and cooperation between UNODC and other United Nations bodies was expressed. The importance of effective coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and UNODC for effective monitoring and compliance by Member States was emphasized. It was also pointed out that under those subprogrammes, no clear reference had been made to cooperation and coordination with other United Nations programmes and agencies, including references to joint projects and activities with the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the areas of advocacy and education.

8. A view was expressed that there was a need for continued work on alternative development and that particular attention needed to be paid to the specific issues in transit countries.

9. The view was expressed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee reviewed the programme narrative of section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (see A/60/537) and recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative.**

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed biennial programme plan subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 13.3

Delete paragraph 13.3 and renumber the subsequent paragraphs.

Former paragraph 13.4

Revise former paragraph 13.4 to read: "13.3 The General Assembly, in its 2005 World Summit Outcome, clearly recognized organized crime and terrorism among the major security concerns. This has articulated clearly the strategic position of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime within the general nexus of development, security and human rights".

Former paragraph 13.5

Delete sub-item (g).

Subprogramme 3
Technical assistance and advice

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment (e) reading: "(e) Enhanced capacity of transit countries in their fight against illicit drug trafficking".

Indicators of achievement

Revise indicator of achievement (b) (iii) to read: "(iii) Increased assistance to national HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes for drug users and to such programmes in prisons and for potential and actual victims of human trafficking".

Add a new indicator (b) (iv) reading:

"(iv) Increased assistance to more countries for the implementation of effective national action-oriented demand reduction strategies in order to achieve measurable results in the reduction of drug abuse".

Reletter indicator (c) as (c) (i) and add new indicators (c) (ii) and (iii) reading:

"(ii) Increased assistance to more countries for the implementation of effective sustainable illicit crop elimination strategies";

"(iii) Increased assistance to more countries for the implementation of action-oriented programmes aimed at achieving measurable results in their fight against illicit drug trafficking".

Reletter indicator (d) as (d) (i) and revise to read: "(i) Increased access of affected countries to advisory services and increased international assistance to affected countries to provide them with financial and technical assistance for alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, and the implementation of a sustainable livelihood".

Under indicator (d), add a new indicator (ii) reading: "(ii) Increased number of concerned countries assisted in providing alternative development assistance to farmers in need".

Add a new indicator (e) reading: "(e) Increased assistance to transit countries, upon request, to address their special needs in fighting against illicit drug trafficking".

Legislative mandates

Add the following Security Council resolution:

1624 (2005) Threats to international peace and security

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3(b))

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

1. At its 17th meeting, on 28 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 21)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the programme and the work of the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The importance of the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue and the settlement of the Middle East question were expressed.

4. Clarification was sought on some indicators of achievement under subprogrammes 1 and 2. The Committee was informed that the World Health Organization (WHO) had conducted an external review of the UNRWA health programme and commended both its efficiency and effectiveness.

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5. Clarification was sought on the coordination of UNRWA activities among the various capitals in the region. It was informed that increasing use of videoconferencing for meetings and a decentralized approach to field operations had ensured continuity of operations and coordination between UNRWA field offices.

6. While noting the partnership between UNRWA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and WHO, a question was raised concerning partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, and the role of regional organizations. Concern was expressed on the funding situation of UNRWA.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overview orientation

Paragraph 21.1

Add the following new paragraph after paragraph 21.1 and number subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"21.2 UNRWA reports directly to the General Assembly. Overall review of UNRWA programmes and activities is undertaken by the 23-member Advisory Commission, which includes representatives of the Agency's major donors and host Governments. In its resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly decided that, with effect from 1 January 1975, the expenses relating to the emoluments of international staff in the service of UNRWA, which would otherwise have been charged to voluntary contributions, should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate."

Paragraph 21.6

At the end of the paragraph, add the following two sentences:

"In each subprogramme area, including general education and technical and vocational training, maternal and child health care and disease prevention, poverty eradication and microfinance, the Agency has sought to achieve programme results consistent with the targets and commitments established by the United Nations system, such as the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. UNRWA will continue, in its five areas of operation, to maintain its efforts to achieve this consistency throughout 2008-2009, including in the areas of educational services, health services, relief and social services and income-generating programmes, and will continue to undertake projects to improve infrastructure and socio-economic conditions."

Subprogramme 1
Education

Objective of the Organization

Replace the word "enhance" with the word "improve".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

After accomplishment (a), add the following two accomplishments:

"(b) Adapted and improved course content and curricula in both the general and technical education programmes to match developments in host countries"

"(c) Adapted and improved course content and curricula in vocational training institutions to meet changing market conditions"

Indicators of achievement

After indicator (a), add the following indicators:

"(b) Percentage of the curricula adapted or improved relative to the total number of modifications required"

"(c) Percentage of the curricula adapted or improved relative to the total number of modifications required"

Subprogramme 2
Health

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (c), replace the word "Enhanced" with the word "Improved"

After accomplishment (e), add the following accomplishment:

"(f) Reduction of psychological trauma resulting from years of insecurity and chronic violence"

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (c) (ii), add the words "including potable water"

After indicator (e), add the following indicator:

"(f) Increased assistance to persons suffering from mental trauma".